

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



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- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
 - *The “Dark Ages” Overview*
 - *Flagrant Abuses of Authority: Zeno, Theodoric, and Clovis*
 - *Auctoritas Sacrata Pontificum: Gelasius*
 - *The Rise of the Monk: Benedict, Brendan, and Dennis*
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 - *Streamlining the Church*
 - *European Empires: The Carolingians (part three)*



The Early Middle Ages

- The Frankish Carolingians grew in power
 - 768
 - Pepin's sons became kings of the Franks
 - On his death, Pepin's kingdom was divided between his sons, Charlemagne and Carloman who didn't really like one another
 - Charlemagne was the *firstborn* son, but there's a decent chance that he was illegitimate—which made 17-year-old Carloman the only *legitimate* heir to the throne
 - Fortunately, their rivalry didn't last long, since Carloman died in 771 at the age of 20 from a *nosebleed*, leaving 29-year-old Charlemagne in charge of the whole kingdom
- (but not before the two brothers together finally defeated the Basques and took over Vasconia)



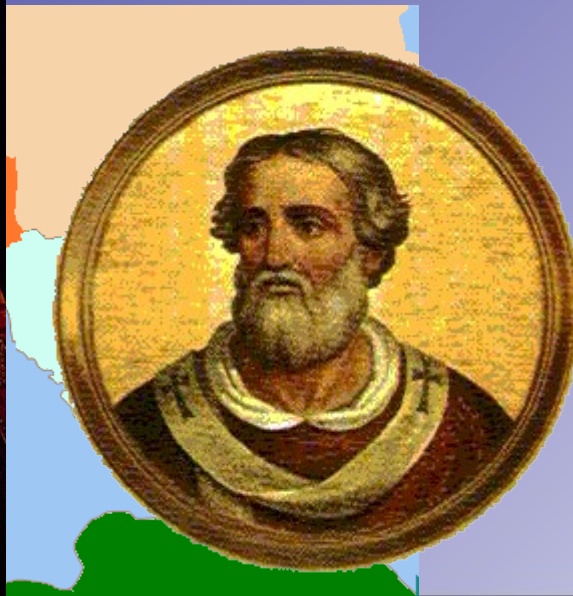
The Early Middle Ages

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 - 772 The Lombards retook the Papal States
- [Thinking to themselves, “Hey, Charles Martel was a warlord, and Pepin was a warlord—this new Charles guy was just some pampered little Prince—and an *illegitimate* one at that, who surely won't be able to galvanize his people... he'll be a *pushover*...”]



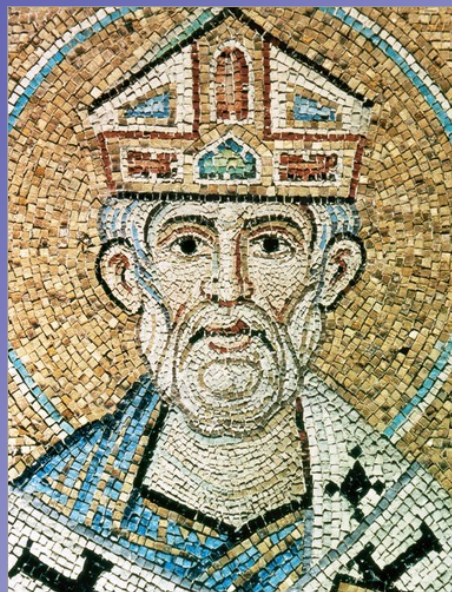
The Early Middle Ages

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 - 772 The Lombards retook the Papal States
 - King Desiderius refused to recognize the Pope's authority, and even tried to install his own Pope before deciding to just re-take the cities himself
 - New Pope Hadrian I appealed to Charlemagne to help them, reminding him not only of his father's earlier promise (i.e.; the Donation of Pepin) but also of the much earlier and more expansive Donation of *Constantine*



The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Back in 315, the Emperor Constantine contracted leprosy
 - As fate would have it, Pope Sylvester I came and prayed for him, and he was miraculously healed at which point, he was converted and baptised into the Catholic faith
 - In gratitude to the Pope, Constantine issued the Donation of Constantine, which officially gave the Pope supremacy over all other Patriarchs, and complete dominion over the whole of the Western Roman Empire



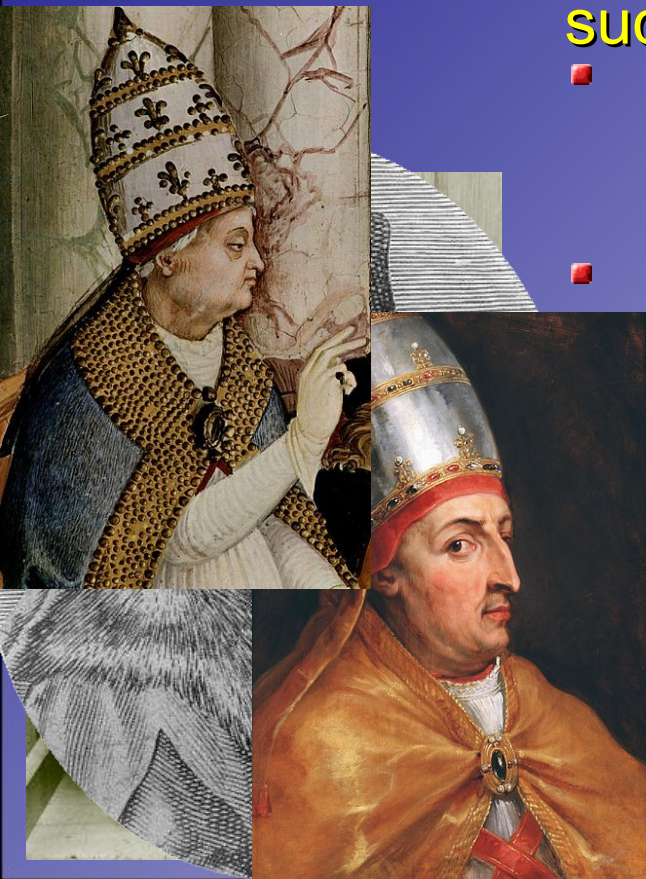
The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Back in 315, the Emperor Constantine contracted leprosy
 - The reason that we haven't discussed this before is that it never really happened
 - Constantine never contracted leprosy, that's not how he was converted, and he never wrote any such decree (nor *would* he have)
 - The decree was a total forgery—probably commissioned by Pope Hadrian himself (or his predecessor, Stephen II) to put pressure on the Franks to come help
 - (NOTE: later writer Dante Alighieri commented on the Donation [which he thought was genuine] in his *Divine Comedy*, lamenting it as the seed of the evil of greed that he considered had terminally infected the papacy)



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 - The decree was a total forgery—probably commissioned by Pope Hadrian himself (or his predecessor, Stephen II) to put pressure on the Franks to come help
 - It was generally accepted as genuine (though there were a lot of people who doubted it) until the 15th century, when Catholic priest Lorenzo Valla finally forensically proved it to be a fake
 - But even then, Popes such as Pius II and Nicholas V continued to use it as legal justification for the confiscation of lands for the Church—particularly when dividing up the territories of the New World



The Early Middle Ages

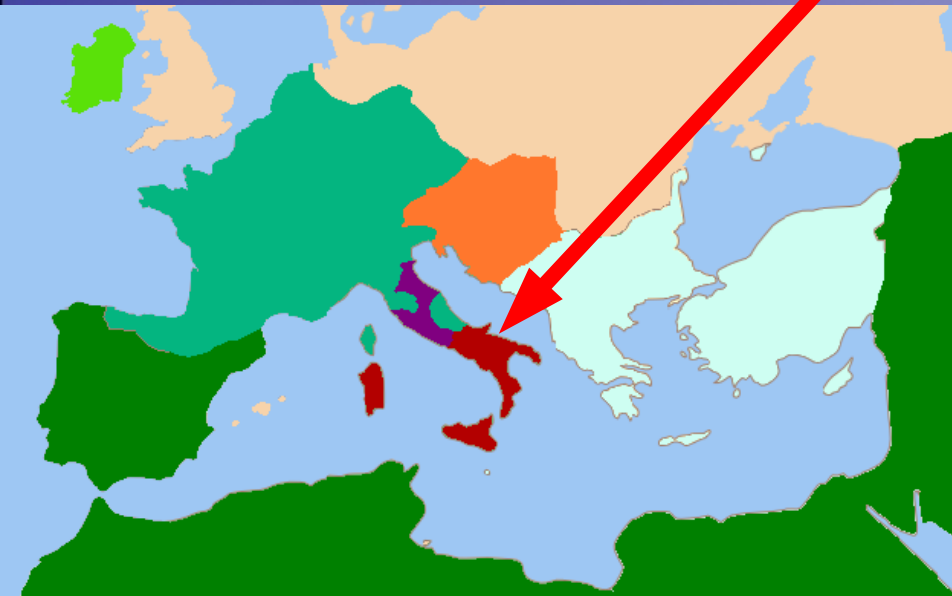
- **The Frankish Carolingians grew in power**
 - 768 Pepin's sons became kings of the Franks
 - 772 **The Lombards retook the Papal States**
 - But Pope Hadrian's deception worked, and Charlemagne invaded Italy with his Franks
 - Within two years, he had reconquered the territories that had been lost, returned them to the Church, and was declared a hero of the faith
 - (NOTE: he allowed the Lombards in the south a nominal autonomy as the Duchy of Benevento)
 - 1) Like the war in Kuwait, taking out the Lombards wasn't his mandate—he received a call for help from an ally, liberated them from an invader (whom he drove back into their own territory), and then went home



The Early Middle Ages

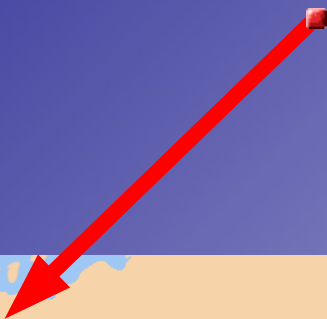
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- 1) Like the war in Kuwait, taking out the Lombards wasn't his mandate
- 2) It's always best to give your enemies someplace to retreat to—otherwise, you either have to keep fighting them, on their own turf, and the war takes on a whole new level of intensity (think of the war in Iraq)



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 - **Speaking of which, Charlemagne then turned his attention to Saxony**



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768

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772

The Lombards retook the Papal States

773-4

Charlemagne conquered Saxony

- After subduing the Christian Lombards (as a hero of the faith), Charlemagne expressed that he couldn't in good conscience leave the neighboring Saxons lost in their paganism

- So he advanced north into Saxony and actually conquered the Saxons with fairly little bloodshed though their leader, Widukind, escaped north into Denmark

- In the process, Charlemagne took a page from Winfrid Boniface and chopped down an Irminsul (holy oak tree) near the village of Paderborn and then personally oversaw the baptisms of hundreds of Saxons
(NOTE: The caption of this picture reads "Charlemagne inflicting baptism upon the Saxons")



CHARLEMAGNE INFLECTING BAPTISM UPON THE SAXONS. — Page 215.



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 - 773-4 Charlemagne conquered Saxony
 - 776 Charlemagne *finished* conquering Italy
 - In the southern Duchy of Benevento, the last two Lombard dukes rebelled against the Franks
 - Charlemagne killed one duke and forced the other to surrender and become a Frankish vassal
 - Charlemagne then had himself named King of the Lombards, and thus, King of Italy—much like Odoacer did back in 476



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 - 782 Charlemagne issued Ordinances of Saxony
 - Any Saxons who refused to be baptised into Christianity were to be summarily put to death
 - Widukind returned from exile to oppose him, but at the Massacre of Verden, Charlemagne put to death 4,500 Saxons who refused baptism
 - By 785, even Widukind realized that continued fighting would only end in more dead Saxons, so he and his men surrendered and were baptised



The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Among the Germanic peoples, Widukind became something of a “hero-in-defeat,” and a champion of German independence
 - Both Heinrich Himmler and Joseph Goebbels of the Nazis' Third Reich made use of Widukind as a symbol of Germany's innate nobility of character and used Charlemagne as a symbol of France's historical oppression of the Germanic people
 - Because of Charlemagne's alleged “unchecked aggression” in the past, the German people had not only the right, but the *obligation* to conquer France in the present



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 - By 804, all surviving Saxons had been baptised as Catholics—though not necessarily *converted* as Christians
 - But increasingly, that's becoming irrelevant to the Church—instead of baptism simply being logically assumed in conversion, conversion is becoming logically assumed in baptism



The Early Middle Ages

- The Frankish Carolingians grew in power
787
 - The Second Council of Nicaea is convened
 - The Council of Hieria *claimed* to have been the Seventh Ecumenical Council back in 754, but nobody else thought that they were—so *this* is the *real* Seventh Ecumenical Council
 - It was convened by the new Patriarch, Tarasios and—in the only decent action of his reign—the Emperor Constantine VI
 - [NOTE: he fought against his own mother for power, had four of his uncles' tongues cut out and a fifth one blinded because they tried to end his tyranny, and divorced his wife so that he could marry his mistress, breaking communion with the Church]
 - [NOTE²: his mother, Irene, finally had him kidnapped, blinded, and killed in 797—becoming the first Empress Regent of Constantinople]



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 - The Council made it a point to invite Pope Hadrian, but couldn't even get *messages* to the churches in Jerusalem, Antioch, and Alexandria
 - Over the week-long Council, bishops begged for forgiveness for being iconoclasts—which the papal representatives extended to them—and argued that the *real* source of the iconoclastic “heresy” was the theology of the Muslims, the Jews, and the Manicheans
 - In the end, they decided that “It is proper to accord to [icons] a fervent and reverent adoration, not, however, the veritable worship which, according to our faith, belongs to the Divine Being alone”
 - In fact, every altar is to have some sort of relic in it to revere and adore
 - They did, however, prohibit the use of statues, since those are too “sensual”



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 - They also decided 22 other bits of clerical housekeeping, including—
 - 1) Churches should follow proper order (i.e.; bishops should administer the sacraments to deacons, who can administer them to parishioners, etc.—*never* the opposite direction)



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 - 1) Churches should follow proper order
 - 2) All prayers on the Lord's Day and on Pentecost must be performed while *standing*, and *not* while *kneeling*
 - Yes, Paul (and most of the early Church) prayed while kneeling (see Acts 20:36, 21:5, etc.), but that's the *Jewish* way—the *Roman* way is to stand, and all churches should be unified in their worship practices (and thus, do it the same way... as Rome)



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 - 3) Clergy must not have any women in their home, other than their mothers, sisters, or elderly aunts—wives and mistresses are strictly prohibited

